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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1939.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

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Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

13, Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

May, 1941.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the

Urban District Council of Newmarket,

in the County of West Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bocock & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration my fourth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health being for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

Except in the case of items for which full particulars are required by the Minister of Health the report has been limited on his instructions, owing to the outbreak of War, to a record of important alterations, improvements or developments which took place during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bocock & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON,
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.,
also Medical Officer of Health Cosford, Mildenhall, Thedwastre and Thingoe Rural Districts and
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health - West Suffolk.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. F.B. Waterfall, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
also Assistant Surveyor & Shops Inspector.

S E C T I O N A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area ... ... 5,640 acres.

		1939	1938	1937	1936
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	* (a)	9082	9207	9330	9400
	(b)	9202			
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book		2812	2809	2795	2790
Rateable Value		£72,426	£72,531	£72,018	£71,889.
Sum represented by a penny rate		£269	£268	£268	£269

* (a) for the calculation of Birth Rates
(b) for the calculation of Death Rates or the incidence of notifiable diseases.

Until the outbreak of War the average number of unemployed men and women was about 120, the same as in 1937 and in 1938. The War's dislocation of racing caused a rise in unemployment, but this was of the most transient nature and in a few weeks there was a marked shortage of labour.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births.	*	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	I.M.) B.R.)	86	35	51
Illegitimate	I.M.) B.R.)	5	2	3

Birth Rate.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Newmarket.	10.2	11.9	11.4	11.3
England & Wales.	15.0	15.1	14.7	14.3

Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still) births

	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Newmarket.	42.1	17.9	18.5	27.5

* I.M. for calculating infant and maternal mortalities.
B.R. for calculating birth rates.

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female.	Death Rate per 1000 Resident Popul: Crude. (Newmarket)	Corrected. (Newmarket)	England & Wales.
1939	101	55	46	11.0	9.7	12.1
1938	133	80	53	14.4	12.7	12.4
1937	107	52	55	11.5	10.1	12.4
1936	106	59	47	11.3	9.9	12.1

In 1939 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 5 (1 male, 4 females) including 1 illegitimate female.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond District															
	Under 1 year		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		Registrar General's Figures.	
(M - Male) (F - Female)	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	5	4	3	7	9
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	3	4
Heart Disease	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	9	14	18	16
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Pnoumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Other Diseases of Liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births etc.	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Senility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	3
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Violence	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	5	-
Other Defined Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	6	1	8	3
Total. Male	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	17	-	28	-	55	-
Female	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	8	-	29	-	46

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(ii)

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Previous years arrangements were continued until late in the year when the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge under the Directorship of Dr. A. . Downie, became available.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious Diseases and Civil Ambulance facilities remained unchanged.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

This was carried out as in previous years save that Nurse Peet replaced Nurse Coote.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These were unchanged.

(e) HOSPITALS. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. No change.

The GENERAL HOSPITALS entered into the Emergency Hospital Scheme and for a while admissions were restricted to acute cases.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

The Newmarket Water Works Company, Ltd, continued their supply of water to the Town. In view of the supply being derived from chalk, particularly heavy rain storms in the latter part of the year, building development without a main sewerage system in the adjoining rural district, the influx of evacuees and military considerations, the safeguard of continous chlorination of the water supply was instituted during the year.

I gratefully acknowledge the unstinted help, (prompted by their consistent keenness to maintain a pure and adequate water supply), which I have received from the Chairman and Secretary of the Newmarket Water Works Company.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewage or Sewage Disposal Works have not been extended during the year. 148,000 gallons of crude gas liquor were carted by the Newmarket Gas Company to the Sewage Disposal Works and disposed of by spreading over land forming old stone pits to prevent damage to the Sewage Dispoal Works Plant and (2) Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Except for a few isolated properties situated away from the Sewerage System all houses and premises in the District have Water Closets connected to the water carriage system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Public Cleansing of roads and streets is carried out daily in the main part of the Town and weekly in the remainder of the area.

House refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and horse drawn vehicles making a weekly collection of all domestic refuse. 3120 loads of house refuse was collected and burnt in the 3-cell Manlove-Alliott Destructor together with 971 loads of Trade Refuse, during the year.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. Waterfall, who has furnished the following tabular statement, has been of unfailing assistance during a most difficult year.

INSPECTIONS.

Dwellinghouses.

Total number of dwellinghouse inspections made under the various Acts ...	220
Total number of re-inspections thereof	256
Number of houses inspected after infectious diseases ...	55

Drains.

New drain tests and inspections ...	53
Inspections in connection with choked drains	23

Various.

Slaughterhouses	95
Visits in connection with reported nuisances	87
Food shops, market stalls, etc. ...	62
Bakehouses	9
Factories	22
Cowsheds	4
Dairies	4
Common Lodging Houses ...	3
School inspections	1
Tents, vans, sheds, etc. ...	3
Swimming baths	2
Shops	126
Total number of inspections in the District	1025

Number of Informal Notices given in 1939		60
Outstanding Informal Notices @ 1st January 1939	6	
Outstanding Informal Notices @ 31st December 1939	-	
Number of Statutory Notices served in 1939		14
Outstanding Statutory Notices @ 1st January 1939	33	
Outstanding Statutory Notices " 31st December 1939	16	

The following is a classified list of the housing defects and nuisances abated during the year:-

Dampness	4
Roofs repaired	7
Defective walls and ceilings repaired	7
Chimneys repaired	1
Windows repaired	5
Rain water pipes repaired & renewed	9
Defective W.C. pedestals renewed & repaired	10
New distbins installed	15
Insanitary houses cleansed	3
Drain stoppages	23
Sinks installed	1
Stoves repaired	2
Floors repaired	1
Yard paving repaired	2
Doors & frames repaired	4
Total	94

Factory Act, 1937.

The following table summarises the number of inspections made under the Factory Act, 1937, the defects found and the action taken thereon:-

	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power	9	Nil	Nil
Factories without " "	10	Nil	Nil
Other Premises	3	Nil	Nil
	22	Nil	Nil

Defects found in Factories.

Want of Cleanliness in one, insufficient sanitary accommodation in two and defective sanitary accommodation in another factory were found and remedied without need of reference to H.M. Inspector.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

126 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, were made and 7 certificates of Exemption from Sanitary Accommodation have been given. Notice to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation was served in one case. It was found impossible to visit offices owing to excess routine and national emergency work.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

Licences used during the previous year for camping sites were not renewed during 1939.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary during the year.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one privately owned modern public swimming bath in the area the water for which is obtained from the public water supply and is filtered, heated and chlorinated by a suitable plant.

Frequent visits are made to ascertain that due regard is paid to the cleanliness of the baths, cubicles towels, costumes and sanitary conveniences.

Analyses of water samples taken from the bath have shown that the chlorination plant has been worked satisfactorily.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Five houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and all were disinfested by the use of "Lawveraide" by the Councils workmen. In addition contents from thirty houses vacated in pursuance of the Housing Act, 1936, were disinfested before the tenants' occupation of new Council Houses - this being carried out the the Associated Fumigators Ltd., 112, Vistoria Dock Road, London, E.16., who employed hydrogen cyanide.

4. SCHOOLS.

The five elementary schools, four private schools and one secondary school in the area have been inspected.

S E C T I O N D.

H O U S I N G.

1.(1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	220
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	476
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspeted and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	49
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	81
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 28

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9,10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	17
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fitafter service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	17
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	60
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	22
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(i)Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(ii)Number of families dwelling therein	4
(iii)Number of persons dwelling therein	32
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)(i)Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(ii)Number of persons concerned in such cases	59
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

27 Council Houses at King George Avenue, Ilford, were completed and occupied during 1939.

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The town's Milk Supply and Milk Producers were unchanged.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There were three private slaughterhouses used in the District prior to October when all cattle were slaughtered at a central slaughterhouse in an adjoining area. The Cattle Market is visited regularly and the live cattle inspected.

Diseased Meat Surrendered.

Beasts. One mesentery, liver, skirt and lung. Three heads and tongues.

Pigs. Seven heads, ten mesenteries and six livers.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed		Not known			
Number inspected	34	-	1	63	304
(All Diseases except Tuberculosis)					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.9%	-	-	-	1.0
(Tuberculosis only)					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	17.6%	-	-	-	6.5

(c) ADULTERATION ETC. The County Council undertake this work.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. was not undertaken during the year.

(e) NUTRITION.)
(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan)) No change.

S E C T I O N F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows that no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred during the year.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease	Total cases notified	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	49	-	-	-	-	2	15	25	6	1	-	-	-	36	-
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	3
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
H Whooping Cough	14	5	3	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	72	5	3	1	-	3	20	26	8	2	1	2	1	40	3

H Notifiable only from October 1st.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New cases and mortality during 1939:

Age Periods	NEW CASES. Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-respiratory M	Non-respiratory F	DEATHS. Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-respiratory M	Non-respiratory F
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	3	2	2	-	2	-	-	-

The 45 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at end of 1939, together with the corresponding figures for 1938, 1937 and 1936 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	Total M	Total F
31.12.39	19	9	8	9	27	18
31.12.38	19	9	10	9	29	18
31.12.37	21	9	11	9	32	18
31.12.36	20	8	10	8	30	16